

**BLUAC Steering Committee**  
**September 21, 2006, 2006 Minutes**  
**bigforksteering.org**

In attendance: Sue Hanson, Leslie Budewitz, Janet Loranger, Craig D. Wagner, Pat Wagner, Chuck Gough, Clarice Ryan, Gina Klempel, Kathy Robertson, John Bourquin, Gary Ridderhoff, Darrel Coverdell, Shelley Gonzales, Al Johnson, Brett Thuma, Sally Janover, Edd Blackler, Buz Meyer, Don Loranger

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Minutes of the September 14, 2006, meeting were approved as mailed.

Treasurer Gonzales reported approximately \$1838.00 in the account, unchanged from last week. Don Loranger reported that approximately \$2,000.00 was raised from auction of the completed plan at the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork fundraiser on September 14, 2006. Signed copies of the Growth Plan will be provided to auction winners when available. Don indicated the CFBB would give half the proceeds to BSC. Pat Wagner reminded the committee that the website domain charge will be due soon. Cost will be approximately \$50. Treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Chairman Loranger invited the members to introduce themselves around the room.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Growth Plan:**

Loranger reported that several small changes had been made to the draft. Final printing will take place when 3-4 maps are received from Flathead County GIS Dept. Estimated cost of printing the plan is \$16 per copy. Loranger will call Ron at the GIS office to check on the progress of getting the needed maps.

John Bourquin reported BLUAC will discuss the draft at the September 28, 2006, regular meeting (4:00 PM at Bethany Lutheran Church. At that time, BLUAC will discuss methods to present the plan to the public. It was determined that the procedure for final signatures of both committees will take place after public hearings and consideration of input comments.

Edd Blackler asked why the BSC doesn't stand on its own and why does the Growth Plan have to go through BLUAC. Loranger stated that both BLUAC and BSC are making a concerted effort to encourage and foster a cooperative community effort on such a huge responsibility. BLUAC is the elected body authorized to implement the Growth Plan and is the appropriate body to forward a final draft for the process of approval by the Flathead County Commission.

Clarice Ryan asked how much time will be given for public comment and how the comments would be used. John Bourquin stated this would be discussed at the next BLUAC meeting. Kathy Robertson noted that the Montana statutes does not specify the number or duration of public hearings on a growth plan, with the exception of a 10 day public notice before a public meeting. Robertson also stated the importance of moving forward. The county planning board will need neighborhood plans to finalize the county growth plan. She also stated that Commissioner Hall has express concern about further delays noting the Commissioners are stewards of taxpayer dollars and they are concerned about the possibility of litigation resulting from delay in getting a plan implemented. She also noted that the Planning Board had documented both written and oral comments from public meetings and are using those for reference and input for the final draft. She suggested a timeline and cut-off date for public comment to keep the process moving forward. She didn't feel two weeks was sufficient for the county purposes, but may be sufficient for the smaller area of Bigfork.

Sue Hanson expressed concern for getting venues pinned down well in advance. She will contact the Bigfork Schools and Bethany Lutheran Church for possible dates. Pat Wagner will contact Crossroads Church and the Catholic Church for the same.

#### **Long Range Vision/Plan**

No report.

#### **Resort Tax**

No report.

#### **Joint County Zoning District**

Leslie Budewitz spoke briefly about the idea of a joint zoning district with Lake County. She stated that most of Lake County is not zoned and the boundary between the two counties presents some problems of inconsistency in zoning and approved uses. Lake County Commissioners are open to the idea of a joint district. Budewitz suggests establishing a sub-committee to study the process and will report back to the committee with progress in that area. Secretary Hanson will provide Leslie with a list of names of BSC members who live in Lake County.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Sally Janover presented a statement of her view of possible anchor and focus for the future growth of Bigfork as follows:

"A Sense of Place" (Sally Janover, 9/21/06)

I live *in* Bigfork. I see the changes that are occurring in Bigfork up front and personal, and I'm concerned.

Two things have made Bigfork unique. The first and primary is the sense of community, an historically strong and uniting sense of place. The second is Bigfork's reputation as a artistic center.

The changes that are now occurring, rapidly, threaten both. Particularly as it impacts the core of Bigfork, the village and it's surroundings.



As more and more condos replace community centers – the Catholic Church on Grand, the bowling alley on Holt and Highway 35, the public land around the bay and lake – holes are torn out of the sense of place that Bigfork residents experience. I hear rumors that even the upper Bigfork neighborhood is subject to these changes, and most significantly, the Bigfork schools.

It's my opinion that Bigfork needs something more significant than architectural guidelines, signage, and lighting to save it as a community with distinction. It needs an anchor, a focus, that will take it into the future as a specific place with a specific signature.

I propose that we begin now to view the site of the current school grounds as that center. That we begin now to build toward turning it into a campus for the arts, emulating institutions like the Aspen music festival and arts school. That the existing school buildings be used for boarding, classes and special performances. That this location be known for it's classes and performance in all the arts – film, dance, writing, music and the visual arts. That the best teachers and performers be invited to participate both as visitors and as part of the development of the Bigfork Center for Creative Arts.

If we commit ourselves to this as a goal, it would bring everything else along with it. The people, the quality of life, the money, the reputation, and a significant anchor for the center of Bigfork.

I've brought this idea up to several artists and gallery owners in Bigfork with a positive response. Pam Reed was concerned about the problem of raising money. As we discussed it, we realized that there are successful people from the arts who have chosen to live here – especially from the film business – who might be willing and able to be both angels and promoters of this concept.

If this idea receives a positive response from the community, we have no time to waste.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

BLUAC regular meeting September 28, 2006, 4:00 PM at Bethany Lutheran Church. Agenda is posted at the Bigfork Post Office, Montana Real Estate Office (Electric Avenue) and at Bigfork Drug.

Nominating Committee for BSC will meet following today's meeting. Committee is Janet Loranger, Pat Wagner, Buz Meyer, Al Johnson and Doug Averill. Elections for BSC will be held in October 2006.

Announcements, as well as the minutes are posted on the BSC website.  
Meeting was adjourned at 1:15 PM

Sue Hanson  
Secretary